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## The young generation who won't say hello to neighbours

By **Rosie Taylor**

IT'S not just your imagination – young people really are getting ruder.

Today's 18 to 34-year-olds are less likely to say hello to neighbours or open a door for the elderly than those aged over 55.

They are also more reluctant to tip the postman at Christmas.

Research showed the age group were 23 per cent less likely, on average, to carry out common courtesies than over-55s.

Neighbours were ignored by nearly 35 per cent of the group compared with only 15 per cent of over-55s. Youngsters were also 18 per cent less likely to open a door for a woman or an elderly person, 17 per cent less willing to give up their seat on public transport for a pregnant woman and 12 per cent less likely to offer it to an elderly passenger.

Tipping is another courtesy that seems to have been lost between generations, with the younger group 41 per cent less likely to tip

'Communities are now much more about material gain and looking after your peer group, rather than bothering with the people who live next door or you meet on the street.'

'People's respect for themselves has gone down and with that goes down respect for other people. There is a decline in respect for other people's feelings. That is a major change.'

Dr Sherlock said it was likely technology was encouraging people to be 'more involved in themselves'.

### 'A decline in respect'

the milkman – if they have one – at Christmas and 36 per cent less likely to give a festive tip to the postman, according to the YouGov survey of 1,000 adults for RatedPeople.com.

Psychiatrist Dr Clive Sherlock said the changes in behaviour were evidence of society becoming more selfish. He said: 'People now are more concerned for themselves and less concerned for other people.'